ARTICLES
To be inquired of in the Visitation of the reuerend Father in God, WILLIAM Bishop of *Durham:*

In the yeere of our Lord God 1613.

¶ Imprinted at London. 1613.

¶ The tenour of the Oath to be miniſtred to the Church-wardens and *Sworn-men.*

YOu and euery of you ſhall ſweare by Almightie GOD, that (all affection and reſpect ſet aſide) vpon due & deliberate conſideration of theſe Articles giuen in charge, you ſhall make a true, full and particular anſwer in writing to the ſame Articles and euery of them, preſenting all and ſingular offences and offenders therein mentioned: wherein you ſhall deale faithfully, and vprightly, as before GOD: So helpe you GOD in Ieſus Chriſt.

Articles to be inquired of, by the Church-wardens and Sworne-men in the sayd visitation of the Bishop of Durham. 1613.

For the Clergie.

IN primis, Whether your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Minister, be a Preacher of Gods Word, and a Maintainer and Furtherer of Religion now established by publike authoritie within this Realme of England or no.

2. Whether he do in his Sermons, Lectures and other Exercises move the people to ioyne with him in prayer for the Kings Maiestie, our gracious Quéene Anne, the noble Prince Charles, and their royall issue, with addition of such stile and title as of right doth appertaine to his Maiestie: and whether any since the seuenth of September 1606. haue refused, or willingly omitted or neglected so to doe.

3. Whether he be a Preacher lawfully admitted, and by what authority. And whether your Minister or Church-wardens haue since the time aforesayd, suffered any man to preach in your Church, but such as haue first shewed their licences to preach, either from the Lord Archbishop of Yorke, or Bishop of the Diocesse where he dwelleth, or one of the Vniuersities, vnder their seale.

4. Whether he be painfull and diligent in preaching, as also in Catechizing the youth of your parish, vpon Sun-

daies and holidaies. And how many Sermons hath your Parson, Vicar, or Minister preached in his owne Church within this yeare last past. And if he be not a Preacher how many sermons by his procurement or otherwise hath there beene preached this last yeare, and by whom. And whether were they that preached the same licenced or no, and by whom.

5. Whether any Lectures be read, or Exercises vsed within your Parish, either publikely in the Church or priuately in any house by any not licenced thereunto by the Arch-bishop or Bishop, or by one of the Universities: or being licenced doe refuse to conforme themselues to the Lawes, Ordinances, and Rites Ecclesiasticall, established in the Church of England. And whether any such so reading, or exercising doe teach or profesſe any doctrine of Innouation not agreeing to the Ordinances of the Church of England: as Papistrie, Brownisme, or any other Heresie or Schismaticall error, whereby themselues or others may be drawne from their due obedience to God, and his Maiestie in causes Ecclesiasticall.

6. Whether your Minister not beeing a Preacher doe euery Sunday, when there is no Sermon, read some part of the Homiles set forth and appointed by publike authoritie.

7. Whether your Common-praier bee read by your Minister in your Church or Chapell, distinctly and reuerently vpon all Sundaies, Holidaies, and other daies, as is prescribed in or by the booke of Common-praier, without any innouation or omission, and at due and conuenient houres. And whether in like sort the Sacraments bee reuerently ministred, as in and by the same Booke is appointed.

8. Whether doth your Minister vsually weare the Surplesse while he is saying the publike Praiers, and ministring the Sacraments. And if he bee a Graduate, whether doth hee also vpon his Surplesse weare such a hood, as

is

is agréeable to his degrée, and such decent apparell, as by the late Constitutions are appointed.

9. Whether doth your Minister in the administration of the Sacrament of Baptisme, vse the signe of the Crosse according to the Booke of Common-prayer. And whether hath hée deferred or refused to Baptise any Infant being in danger of death, hauing notice of the weakenesse thereof. And whether in his default hath any died without Baptisme.

10. Whether hath your Parson, Vicar or Curate admitted any to the holy Communion, or to bée Godfather or Godmother at Baptisme, being a person excommunicate, any knowne or notorious Offenders, any not instructed in the principles of Religion, or any to the Communion which haue not béene of your Parish. And whether hath hée so often and such times administred the same, as euerie Parishioner may receiue the same at the least euerie yéere thrice, whereof once at Easter, as by the Booke of Common-prayer is appointed.

11. Whether hath hée churched anie woman after the birth of her childe begotten in incest, adulterie, fornication, or married to any woman so begotten with childe, without publike confession of their faults at their Churching or marriages in the presence of the Congregation, vpon some Sabbath or Festiual day at Morning prayer time, leauing their further punishment to the Ordinarie, or other competent Iudge.

12. Whether hath your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Minister, since the 7. of September 1606. celebrated Matrimonie without licence, granted by such as haue Episcopall authoritie, except the Banes of Matrimonie were formerly published thrée seuerall Sundaies or Holidaies, in the time of diuine Seruice in the parish Church or Chapell where the said parties then dwelt, and at anie other time than betwéene the houres of eight and twelue of the clocke in the forenoone, or in any other place, than

in the Church or Chapell, where one of the parties dwelt. And whether without consent of Parents or other Gouernours.

13. Whether hath your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, moe Benefices or Ecclesiasticall promotions than one, and what be their names, and where is hée most resiant. And if he haue more, how is he qualified and dispensed withall to hold the same. And how doth hée supplie his absence, whether by a Curate or Minister licenced to Preach, or not. And if he be, then by whom is hée licenced. And what distributior doth he make yéerely to the poore, where hée is not resident.

14. Whether doth your Minister or Curate serue any moe Cures than one, and if so, then what other Cure doth he serue.

15. Whether doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate according to an act of Parliament in that behalfe made, call vpon and require the people of his Parish, to solemnize and kéepe holy the fift day of November, and that day doe come to the Church to ioyne in Praiers and thanksgiuing for the happie deliuerance of his Maiestie, the Quéene, Prince and States of Parliament, from the most trayterous and bloudy intended massacre by Gunpowder, and whether doe the people of your Parish accordingly repaire to the Church, or doe any refuse or neglect so to doe, present their names and Sur-names.

16. Whether doth hée carefully visit the sicke of his Parish, by exhorting and ministring vnto them, as by the Booke of Common-praier is appointed. And whether doth he attend the buriall of the dead by méeting the corps at the Church-stile, and so accompany the same to the Church or Graue, saying or singing such places of Scripture as are appointed by the sayd booke.

17. Whether is your Minister suspected or defamed to haue obtained his Benefice by Symony, or reputed to bée an incontinent person, or kéepeth any woman in his house

house suspected of incontinencie, or to be a common Drunkard, or a common gamester or plaier at Dice, or doth keepe or suffer to be kept any Ale-house in his Parsonage, or Vicarage house, or faultie in any other crime punishable by the Ecclesiasticall censures, whereby he is offensius to his Ministerie and calling.

18. Whether your Minister, Churchwardens and others for the retaining of the circuit of your Parish by preambulations as hath beene prescribed, doe vse the same without superstition, or popish ceremonie.

19. Whether doth your Parson or Vicar maintaine and keepe in due reparations the Mansion houses & other edifices belonging to their Ecclesiasticall livings without suffering them to fall into ruine and decay.

20. Whether doth your Minister every Sunday according to the booke of Common-praier make knowne to the people what holidaies and fasting daies are in the weeke following.

21. Whether your Minister being a Preacher, offer quiet and temperate conference to popish Recusants: and endeavour diligently to reclaime them from their errours. And whether they or any of them refuse such conference offered vnto them by your said Minister, or other preacher.

22. Whether your Chauncellour, any Arch-deacon, Commissarie, Officiall or other Iudge or officer Ecclesiasticall, for any composition, agreement, or paiment of anie summe of money, haue suppressed and concealed the Excommunication or other Ecclesiasticall censure, of or against any popish Recusant or other offender. And what summe of money or other consideration hath beene promised or receiued in that behalfe to your knowledge, or as you haue heard reported.

23. Whether doth your Minister euery halfe yeare once denounce in your Parish, all such Parishioners as doe remaine Excommunicate and seeke not to be absolued. And whether any Excommunicate person be admitted into the

Church

Church without a certificate of his absolution from the Ordinarie.

24 Whether hath your minister publikely in your Parish Church or Chapell once euery yeere read ouer the Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiasticall agreed vpon by the Clergie of both Prouinces, Anno Domini 1603. according to his Maiesties commandement.

For the Laity.

25. Whether you haue in your Parish-church or chapell all things necessarie and requisite for Common-praier and administration of the Sacraments: As the booke of Common-praier with the new Kalender: The English Bible in the largest volume: two Psalters: two bookes of Homilies: a decent Baptisterie or Font: A table of the ten Commandements: a conuenient seat for the Minister to read Seruice in: a comely and decent Pulpit with cloth and cushion for the same: a comely communion table with a faire linnen cloth to laie vpon the same, and some couering of silke, buckram, or other such like for the cleane keeping thereof: A faire and comely Communion cup of siluer, with a siluer couer, such as may serue for ministration of the holy Communion: a decent large surplesse with sleeues: A chest or box for the poore: And the said bookes of Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiasticall.

26. Whether the body of your Church and Chapell, with the Chancel be well and sufficiently repaired, and kept without prophanation or abuse any way. And if decaied or prophaned, through whose default: And whether your bels and stals in the same be wel maintained, your Church-yard well walled or fenced, and decently kept, and if the same in any part be decaied, through whose default.

27. Whether any Almes-house, Hospitall, Schole or Spittle within your Parish be well and godly vsed according to the foundation and true intent of the Founders thereof.

thereof. And whether any pension or stipend due to any of them be detained, and by whom. And what lands, pensions, goods or monies haue beene heretofore giuen to the poore or other charitable vses within your parish, when, how and by whom, and whether are the same imployed accordingly: if not, in whose default.

28. Whether the Baptistery or Font bee remoued from the vsuall place; or whether any persons leauing the vse thereof doe baptize children in basons or other vessels not vsed in the Church, or whether any children be baptized or christened in priuate houses, otherwise than in cases of necessitie, and by a lawfull Minister: and if yea, then whose children were they, and by whom were they baptized. And whether such so baptized, were afterwards brought to the Church for further manifestation and approbation thereof, according to the Booke of Common Prayer. And whether there bee any children in your parish which are not as yet baptized to your knowledges, and whose children are they.

29. Whether are there any person or persons inhabiting or sojourning within your parish or Chapelry that be notorious Recusants, or which negligently or seldome come to your Church, or Chapell vpon Sabbaths or festiuall daies, and who be they, and how long haue they so continued, and what estate, condition or degree they are of, and whether bs there any within your said parish or Chapelry aboue the age of 16. yeeres, which doe not yearely communicate thrise at the least, whereof once at Easter, and who bee they.

30. Whether are there within your parish any Popish recusants, of bold, insolent, and offensiue behauiour, which presume to seduce and withdraw others, either in their owne families or elsewhere, from the true Religion now established, or from due obedience to his Maiestie; or which make speciall choise of Recusants to bee their seruants; and how many doe they keepe and what bee their names.

31. Whether doe your Minister, Church-wardens, Quest-men, and Assistants yearely within 40. daies after

Easter exhibit to the Bishop or his Chancellor according to the 112. Canon, the names and sur-names of all the parishioners as well Men, as Women, which being of the age of 16. yeares, receiued not the Communion at Easter before.

32. Whether the youth of your parish doe diligently repaire to your Church or Chapell vpon Sabbaths and Holidaies to be Catechized. And if not, in whose default.

33. Whether any doe goe out of the Church or Chapell, or doe vse talking, walking, or sleeping, or any other vnseemely offences, or other vnreuerent behauiour in the time of publike prayer, preaching, celebration of the Sacraments, or catechizing, and who are they.

34. Whether there be any which priuately or publikely by speech or otherwise depraue any part of the true religion established within this Realme, or the Ministers or professors thereof: or whether any Lectures, Conuenticles or priuat exercises be read or vsed within your parish either publikely in the Church, or priuately in any house by any not licenced thereunto by the Ordinarie. And whether any such Reader doe teach any doctrine of innouation, to withdraw the people from their due obedience to the ordinances of the Church set forth by publike authoritie, or to cause them to forbeare to participate in prayers or Sacraments with our Church.

35. Whether haue you any Schoole-master, who teacheth either publikely or priuately within your sayd parish or Chapelrie not being lawfully licenced thereunto by writing vnder seale, and how long hath he there taught.

36. Whether any within your parish, or Chapelry doe suffer any to eat, drinke, play, iangle or talke in their house or yard: or any Butcher or Trades-man their shop-windowes to be kept open to sell meat, drinke or wares on Sundaies in time of morning and euening prayers, Sermons, Lectures or catechizing: or any that labour or worke on the Sabbaths or other commanded festiuall daies to the hinderance of prayers, Sermons, or other godly exercises.

37. Whether

37. Whether any within your Parish, doe chide, braule, quarrell or fight within your Church or Churchyard, what are their names and sur-names and who be the same. And whether any of them haue drawne any weapon there, with purpose to strike with the same.

38. Whether are there within your said parish or Chapelry any Rush-bearings, Bull-baitings, Beare-baitings, May-games, Morice-dances, Ales, or any such like prophane pastimes or assemblies on the Sabbath to the hinderance of praiers, Sermons, or other godly exercises.

39. Whether be there any within your Parish or Chapelry that vse to ring the Bels superstitiously vpon any abrogated Holidaies or the Eauens thereof. And whether is the passing Bell tolled when any Christian body is sicke and like to die, as it ought to be. And after the death of any whether there be any superfluous ringing, superstitious burning of candles ouer the Corse in the day time after it be light: or praying for the dead at crosses or places where crosses haue béene, in the way to the Church, or any other superstitious vse of crosses with towels, palmes, metwands, or other memories of idolatrie at Burials.

40. Whether are you prouided of a parchment booke, in which haue béene and are written the names of all the children, men, and women, baptized, married or buried within your parish, contained in your former Register booke, and specially since the beginning of the reign of the late Quéene Elizabeth. And whether the day and yéere of euery Christening, wedding and buriall which haue béene in your parish hath béene duly written in that booke. And whether haue you a sure coffer with three lockes and keyes for the safe custodie thereof.

41. Whether are there placed by your Register two Tables containing the seuerall rates and summes of all fées due to the Iudge and other officers of your Court, one in the vsuall place of Consistorie where the court is kept, and the other in his Registrie, in such sort as euery man may come

to view the same without difficultie: And whether your Chancellor, Arch-deacon or any other Officer or Minister doe exact or extort any greater fées or summes of money, than in the said Tables are contained; and if so, let the same be expressed.

42. Whether are there or haue béene since his Maiesties most happy reigne ouer this kingdome, within your Parish or Chapelrie, any incestuous persons, Adulterers or Fornicators: Or since the 7. of September 1606. any Vsurers, Drunkards, Swearers, or any other who are vehemently suspected or defamed of any such crime, and who be they.

43. Whether within your Parish or Chapelry are there, or haue béen since his Maiesties so happy reigne, any persons hauing two wiues, or any woman two husbands, or any married within the degrées forbidden, or without Banes thrée seuerall Sundaies or Holidaies first published, or in the time by law prohibited, without lawfull licence thereunto from such as haue Episcopall authoritie, or any who haue had carnall knowledge together before their marriage, or that are vehemently suspected thereof, and who they be.

44. Whether haue any béene priuately married together within your Parish by any vnknowen Priest or Minister, or any who haue not procured their children to bée publikely baptized in your said Church or Chapell according to the booke of Common-prayer, and who they be.

45. Whether any within your Parish or Chapelrie haue harbored any women begotten with child forth of lawfull matrimony, and haue suffred them to depart away vnpunished. Or any who do harbor or relæue any obstinate Recusants or excommunicated persons; and what and how many Recusants or persons excommunicate be there within your said Parish or Chapelrie, & how long haue they so remained, and for what causes they were so excommunicate.

46. Whether any of your Parish doe refuse to contribute towards the reparations of your Church or Chapell,

or towards the prouision of any necessarie ornaments therein, or that refuse to pay your Curate or Parish Clerke his wages, or other vsuall duties, and who they be.

47. Whether the Churchwardens and Side-men bee chosen according to the 89. and 90. Canons, and during their time haue faithfully and dutifully discharged their office, and at or before their going out of the same, made a iust account of their receipts and proceedings to the vse of the Church. And whether any part of your Church stocke or any other thing giuen to any godly publike vse, be deliuered to any, or otherwise imploied, than appertaineth.

48. Whether your Parish Clerke be dutifull and diligent in attending the Minister, and of sufficiencie to discharge his place or not.

49. Whether any within your Parish or Chapelrie doe occupie or intermeddle with the goods or cattels of any deceased person whatsoeuer, whose will, if any such be, is not lawfully approued, or dying intestate, the administration thereof not lawfully granted, and who they be.

50. Whether your Arch-deacon, his Officiall or Deputie, or any other exercising Ecclesiasticall Iurisdiction within this Diocese in places exempt or not exempt, other than the Chancellor of the said Diocese, especially since the 7. of September 1606. haue taken vpon them to grant any licence for marriages within your Parish: And how many licences haue beene so granted, and what bee the names of them that haue beene married by vertue of any such licence, and by what Minister haue the same beene celebrated.

51. Whether the said Arch-deacon or others as aforesaid, haue since the 7. day of September 1606. censured or absolued any person or persons which haue by law incurred the sentence of excommunication *ipso facto*, either for solemnizing or being present at any mariages the Banes not asked, nor any lawfull licence obtained, or for fighting, quarrelling or brawling, or drawing any weapon with purpose to strike in any Church or Church-yard.

52. Whether the said Arch-deacon or others as afore-said, haue since the said 7. day of September 1606. granted any admissions for Curats, licences for Schoole-masters, or Parish Clerkes, sequestrations of vacant Benefices by their supposed authoritie, and how many and to whom, and what be their names.

53. Whether haue they or any of them commuted any corporall punishment for any summe of money, and what be their names, whose punishments haue been commuted, for what offence, by whom, and for what summe of mony, and how hath the said money beene imploied.

54. And lastly, whether is there within your said Parish or Chapelry any Offender or Offenders in any other crime against the said Canons & Constitutions, and other lawes Ecclesiasticall not expressly contained in any of these Articles, whose reformation may be had by Ecclesiasticall authoritie, and who and what the same are.

FINIS.